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examined for any change in pulses, color, or warmth.

Special Instructions These examinations are often arranged by the requesting physician in consultation with the cardiovascular radiologist. The requisition should state clearly the reason for the study as well as the specific vessels to be examined. Any previous imaging studies of the area to be examined should be made available to the cardiovascular radiologist. The cardiovascular radiologist should be alerted to any potential problem areas in the patient's condition, such as renal insufficiency, bleeding abnormalities, or history of severe contrast reaction.

Complications Immediate complications include contrast reaction, acute renal failure, bleeding or hematoma formation at the puncture site, vessel dissection or occlusion, and distal embolization of any clots which may have formed on the catheter. Delayed complications consist of formation of either a false aneurysm or arteriovenous fistula at the puncture site.

Equipment Fluoroscopy, angiographic catheter and wires, and a method of film recording (either conventional cut-film or digital subtraction films).

Technique Local anesthetic agent is instilled over the common femoral artery. The artery is percutaneously punctured and a catheter is inserted and fluoroscopically guided into the artery of interest. Contrast medium is injected and the films are obtained.

Data Acquired Visualization of the arteries in the area of clinical concern on either conventional x-ray film or on digitally subtracted images, sometimes referred to as intra-arterial DSA.

Normal Findings The opacified arteries should be smooth and gradually taper as they continue to branch. There should be no evidence of vessel wall irregularity, aneurysm, narrowing, occlusion, extravasation, or arteriovenous shunting.

Limitations Anything which would obscure the blood vessels, such as overlying barium or patient motion.

References

Johnsrude IS, "Catheterization Techniques," *A Practical Approach to Angiography*, 2nd ed, Johnsrude IS, Jackson DC, and Dunnick NR, eds, Boston, MA: Little, Brown and Co, 1987, 33-44, 58-70.

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